

Missouri Botanical Garden
Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse
Missouri Botanical Garden
2345 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS
MO,
96-SALU,
105 F.

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
CLEVELAND AVENUE GATEHOUSEHABS
MO,Location:

Garden headquarters, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. The gatehouse address is 2221 Tower Grove Avenue, across from Cleveland Avenue.

916-SALV,
105F-

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.738815.4277115

Present Owner:

Board of Trustees, Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Significance:

The Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse is the last building specified by Henry Shaw to complete his plan for the Missouri Botanical Garden. It is an excellent example of a nineteenth-century picturesque cottage combining Gothic Revival details with the extensive use of shingles popular at the end of the nineteenth century. Well integrated with surrounding structures in the Garden, the gatehouse remains the best available staff residence within the Garden.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of inception: The Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse was built between April and October 1895.
2. Architect: George I. Barnett: Payment for "A plan and elevation for the proposed new lodge near the Museum Gate prepared by George I. Barnett, Esq." was recorded in Shaw's ledgers. (Mss. of the Board Report MBG, March 13, 1895, p. 17 Microfilm). For biographical information on Barnett, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135).
3. Original and subsequent owners: Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Past residents of the Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse and approximate respective dates of occupation are as follows:
 1. Charles Schmidt and wife - employees of the Garden. 1896-1916 (Gould's St. Louis Directory).
 2. Catherine Leigh - secretary to the Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and, later wife of Mr. George C. Moore, Director. 1920-1933 (Gould's St. Louis Directory).
 3. Dr. D.C. Fairburn orchidologist. 1934-1946 (Gould's St. Louis City Directory).

4. Dr. Gustave A.L. Mehlquist, research horticulturalist to the garden and Associate Professor of Botany in the Henry Shaw School of Botany of Washington University, and wife, ca. 1947-1952.
 5. Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director of MBG, and wife Dorothy. 1953-1969 (Polk's St. Louis City Directory).
 6. Alfred Saxdal and wife Priscilla, retired employees of the Garden 1969 - the present (1975).
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4. Builders, contractor, suppliers, etc: The architect's commission was \$265.00. The board approved the bid of Bothe & Raterman, to construct the Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse for a price of \$4,235.00. "Payable \$2500.00 when masonry and stonework are finished and remainder 30 days after completion of contract." Blackburn & Past supplied the sewer pipe for \$39.72. Garden employees connected the gatehouse sink and watercloset to the museum sewer system at a cost of \$57.80 (Mss. of the Board Report, MBG, May 8, 1895, p. 31).
 5. Original plans, construction, etc: According to the thirty-third section of the fourth clause of his will, Shaw wished that a small cottage he built for a gatehouse. "It is also my desire that a small brick cottage be provided as a residence for a man to be employed; whose duty it shall keep in order the said Mausoleum, Museum Building or buildings, the Grove, and the grounds around, for all time to come, salary to be paid out of the General Fund belonging to the said trust, and said employee to be under the control of the Director of the Garden, same as the other employees of the aforesaid institution." (Henry Shaw's Will establishing the Missouri Botanical Garden, p. 22). The construction of the cottage would be paid for as part of a devise of \$12,000.00 set aside in Shaw's will. On March 13, 1895, the Board of Trustees approved a budget of \$4500.00 for building costs (Mss. of the Board Report, MBG, p. 17). In October, 1895, the "New Gatehouse" was completed at a final total cost of \$4538.05 (Mss. of the Board Report, MBG, p. 49); in November Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schmidt, the first residents moved in. The front room of the cottage was specified as a "...retiring room or waiting room in bad weather or in case of fatigue or outdoor illness, especially for ladies"; and also specified ..." that a bell at the Gatehouse be connected with the Museum gate, so that persons visiting the Director or his family may enter at that gate." (Mss. of the Board Report, MBG, Nov. 1895, p. 58). Expenditures totaling \$74.72 were made to furnish the gatehouse and \$12.50 was spent to install the bell (Mss. of the Board Report, MBG, Dec. 11, 1895, p. 63).
 6. Alterations and additions: By 1921, with the construction of the new main gate which had adequate public facilities, the southwest porch and front room were no longer used as a ladies' waiting and

rest room (MBG Bulletin, May, 1964, p. 1). In 1934 a new roof of composition asphalt shingles of reddish-orange hue replaced the previous covering of cedar shakes. The work was done by Harris Roof Co. at the cost of \$74.00 (Rattini interview). In 1953, when Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Anderson moved in, the southwest porch entrance was enclosed with fiberglass to make a plantroom and a portion of the kitchen pantry was made into a downstairs lavatory. In 1969 the exterior stonework was cleaned and sand-blasted; the former southwest porch entrance was converted into a glass window, affording a view into the Saxdals' Japanese Garden.

All the above alterations are confirmed by Mr. James Hampton, Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings, MBG. Missouri Botanical Garden.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Henry Shaw (1800-1889). For biographical information, see the HABS report on the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO-1135).

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographs: View from southeast through Museum Gate; Missouri Botanical Garden Seventh Annual Report, 1896, p. 17 see photocopy in this report.

View from southwest including the Thomas Nuttall Monument; ca. 1920; see photocopy in this report.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Plans: The Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse first appears on a plan of the garden in 1904 - insert map, Missouri Botanical Garden.

Manuscripts: Copies of Henry Shaw's will, reports of the Board, Trustees minutes, and the Layton, Layton and Rohrbach master plan are housed in the Lehmann Library in the garden.

Interviews:

August 18, 1975; Missouri Botanical Garden, with Paul A. Kohl, retired floraculturalist of the garden, who recited from memory the various residents of the Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse.

August 19, 1975, Missouri Botanical Garden with James Hampton, superintendent of grounds and buildings MEG, who recalled maintenance and changes.

August 1975, Missouri Botanical Garden, with Louis J. Rattini of the Harris Roof Co., St. Louis, Missouri, concerning cost of reroofing done March 21, 1934.

b. Secondary sources:

Pring, George H., "Henry Shaw's Arboretum," Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, LII, #5 (May, 1964). pp. 1-6.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
August, 1975

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This picturesque cottage, the only structure in the garden with Gothic Revival features, combines a rusticated masonry first floor with the extensive use of shingles over roof and gable ends popular in the last decade of the nineteenth-century.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Irregular, basically T-shaped. Two bays (south front) by one bay. The first story has projecting porches at the southeast and southwest inner corners and a protruding south bay window; the second story and roof are T-shaped in plan; two stories.
2. Foundation: Stone masonry.
3. Construction, finish and color: Rockface limestone walls, random ashlar. Light gray color.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing walls.

5. Porches:

- a. The square southwest corner porch is the main entrance. There is a round-arched doorway on the south and a corner pier on the southwest. On the east are two flat-arched windows with cushion-capitaled column between them; the ceiling is of wood and there is a utility cabinet on the north side wall. The roof is flat and has a simple cornice below it, painted brown.
- b. The matching southeast corner porch is enclosed with glass, and looks out into a small Japanese garden, which is surrounded and shaded by bamboo.

6. Chimneys: There is one central chimney, and two other chimneys at the north side of the house.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is a rear entry door on the first floor, and a basement door on the east side.

8. Windows:

- a. First story: The sash windows have a lower single rectangular pane with two smaller square panes above. They have rusticate long stone blocks as lintels which are part of a belt course.
- b. Second story: On the east and west gable ends are three separate six-paned sash windows with flat transoms above. On the north and south gable ends are triple-section, single rectangular openings. The middle section is a wide sash window consisting of three rows of four panes. It is flanked by narrow sash windows with nine panes. A transom element containing four, square, widely-spaced panes surmounts all three sections.
- c. Dormers: The dormer windows are stone-fronted and contain single sash below two-light transoms.
- d. Attic: Single round-headed slot windows pierce the gable ends

9. Roof:

- a. Shape: The steeply pitched gable is "T" shaped, contains the second story and attic, and is covered with red composition shingles. The valleys and chimneys are flashed with sheet metal strips. The flat porch roofs on the southeast and southwest corners are covered with sheet-metal roofing. The south projecting half-hexagonal bay has a hip roof.

- b. Cornice, eaves: The soffit, fascia, and cornice are wooden, painted black. The gable ends have flared eaves.
- c. Dormers: There are two south dormers and one on the north. They have steep triangular pediments with dressed stone coping and window sills and heavy quarry-faced lintels.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The house turns around the central chimney.
 - a. First floor: From the southwest porch one enters the living room with bay window to the south and central fireplace in the north. Straight ahead is the enclosed southeast porch. To the northwest of the living room is the dining room. Behind the living room fireplace, on the north is the enclosed stairway. Past this at the northeast corner of the house are a fairly large kitchen and a bathroom. A door from the kitchen leads out to the southeast porch.
 - b. Second floor. The stairs (quarter turn with landing) lead to the T-shaped second floor containing a hall, two bedrooms, a small study, and a bathroom.
- 2. Flooring: The wooden floors have tongue-and-groove boards.
- 3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are plastered and painted white; the wooden porch ceilings are painted black.
- 4. Doors: The doors have five pairs of square panels surrounded by moldings.
- 5. Decorative features: There are white baseboards in living room, dining room, kitchen and upstairs; picture molding painted white in the living room, dining room, and bedrooms; a brick fireplace in the living room with the surround and mantelpiece painted white.
- 6. Mechanical equipment: Hot water radiators.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting: The Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse is screened on the north side by trees, the west by a bamboo grove, and on the south by the garden wall. The backyard, is completely private. A Japanese garden is entered from the east side.
- 2. Outbuildings: The garage for the residents of the Cleveland Avenue Gatehouse is located immediately east of the museum across the museum gate walkway. The garage is built of stone, with a gable roof. The flat arch over the door is composed of stone voussoirs and a keystone.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Field Historian
National Park Service
August 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (architect, University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, project foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1982. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.